

THE POINT

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FSC to cut costs

By Melissa Ganley

Talks of budget cuts in the state of Massachusetts have been all over the news lately. The state as a whole has been in a financial crisis for some time now; the "dot com" industry gradually fell causing budget issues for the state. However, after the events of Sept. 11th the tourism industry also took a hard hit. Much of the state's money comes from tourism, and with fewer tourists, the economy took a dive. Many projects and services provided by the state have been affected by this lack in money. As a result, education greatly suffers.

This issue was the topic of discussion at the SGA meeting held on March 19.

President Riccards attempted to explain as best he could why the cuts are happening, and what influence they will have on FSC.

The University of Massachusetts recently announced that they would be cutting seven varsity sports for the 2002-2003 school year. UMass isn't the only school having to make cuts in order to balance their budget. FSC has to do some prioritizing and reorganizing also. Between Nov. of 2001 and Jan. of 2002 the school was able to permanently cut over \$1 million from the budget. In order to do this administrative overhead was cut. However, the school faced a setback when they were informed that they lost funding for the library. The money formally attributed to the library had already been spent so the school had to pay for all of it.

The next cut is expected to be about \$1.6 million; the school is in hopes that the cuts won't affect admissions, financial aid, or any of the popular majors. However, the majors that only have a few graduates each year run the risk of being removed from FSC's programs.

Furthermore, the amount of classes offered each semester will also be curtailed. With the decrease in classes, the number of students in classrooms will

increased, though FSC emphasizes its small class size to sell the college to prospective students. There will also be fewer part time faculty members, and fewer administrators. Nevertheless, President Riccards did guarantee that there would be no layoffs in the first year of cutbacks. "We are trying to make the long term impact not felt by the students," said President Riccards.

"There is no way out of it," said President Riccards.

The cost of college fees will be raised to compensate for the lack of money in the budget. The Board of Trustees is currently deciding how much of an increase in fees students will see. Talks have suggested anywhere between \$400 and \$1,000. By raising the cost of fees the school hopes to close the budget gap by between \$2 million and \$4 million.

President Riccards stated that a \$2 million gap would be one that the school can deal with by using money that the school has put away. However anything much more than \$2 million would provide a greater struggle.

There are several projects that the school was planning that will also be affected by the cuts. There had been a plan to try to buy more of the property on North Street, and to close off Highland Avenue and to renovate the Parkinson building. There will not be enough money to implement any of these projects. However, projects like the new performing arts center will not be affected by the cuts because the money for that comes from an outside source.

So over all will students be paying more for less when they come to FSC? "Yes you will. But there is no way out of it," said President Riccards. State colleges have been hit harder than more state funded establishments, such as prisons; because they have a separate source of income: the students. Many other state funded establishments don't have any source for income. So unfortunately, students will end up with the burden of paying more and more for their college education only to be receiving fewer benefits.

Talking around the block

By Kristine McCaffrey

Block scheduling. Some of us had it in high school and now all of us are experiencing it here at FSC. Block scheduling is simply how we all have classes that meet twice a week for 75 minutes. Some students appreciate this method of scheduling when we are interested in the subject or the class is exciting. Others dread this 75-minute period where we are forced to squirm in our chairs, gaze out the window or watch the tic-toc of the second hand during English Lit or Functions.

According to Dr. Walter Jeffko, the chair of the Academic Policy Committee, there is an overwhelming support of block scheduling. Teachers feel that the pros of this scheduling method are that their lectures are not cut short and that more students register for their classes that only meet twice a week.

The alternative scheduling system is "the kiss of death" for registration, says Jeffko. The alternative system is to have a class meet three times a week for a 50-minute period. Many students feel that they would rather only have a class twice a week than suffer through it three times a week.

A small minority of faculty believe that the old system of scheduling is more beneficial. These members believe that students tend

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MS. X FACES THE JURY

By Ms. X

I know. I know. I shouldn't have done it and I wish I didn't, but now I know that he is wonderful. As I make my confession, which is just dying to be let out, I'll let you readers be the judge of my actions.

My boyfriend and I have been dating for about two months now. We first 'met' on one of those 'rate the person' websites called "FACE the JURY" and exchanged pictures. This was over my winter break and I was at home. Then we started writing each other e-mails and before ya knew it, it started to seem like the plot of that syrupy chick flick "You've Got Mail." After weeks of revealing, getting-to-know-ya e-mails, we would arrange times when we would both be online as to have conversation. Eventually that wasn't even enough and we began speaking on the phone. The boy, excuse me, man just happened to live 15 minutes from my school. So we soon made plans to meet up once I returned from my spring break.

And so we met on a rainy Thursday night in a Circuit City parking lot and lived happily ever after, right? WRONG!

Don't get me wrong, the first few dates were awesome; he even cooked me dinner. We stated dating officially as 'boyfriend/girlfriend' and I was ecstatic. We both agreed to close our accounts on the "FACE the JURY" site since we had found each other. Dates continued to be great. I basically started living at his house. Valentine's day was, well, even though I have my opinions about that day, it was great. Besides the necklace he got me

(diamonds are really a girl's best friend), once the weather is warm he is taking me sky diving.

Things were fabulous. Then one day we were just chilling at his house. Then came the big question...he asked if I would mind if he reactivated his account on "FACE the JURY" because he was bored when I wasn't around. I remembered that the site wasn't only for meeting or ogling at people, but also had some really cool group games and message boards. So, even though I really didn't want him to, I said I didn't mind. I wouldn't have had any problem with it, but that was where we met.

Ok, here's where the story gets juicy and where I turn evil. One day I was at his house doing my homework, while he was on the computer. Then he left to drive his brother to work. Shortly after he left, I heard the "You've got mail" sound from the computer and went over to check it out. I open the e-mail and it was from some chick he met on the site who he had sent pictures to. She had the nerve to tell him how "HOTT" he looked. I closed that and remembered to click 'keep as new' so he wouldn't suspect anything and then looked at his old mail box. He had been exchanging pictures and e-mails with two other girls in the time since he reactivated his account.

For days I struggled with how and why to tell him I didn't want him to be a part of that site any longer. But I could think of no way without revealing what I had done. I mean I know I was right. I only did it because I

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Mass.'s maddening roads

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

Springtime in New England, the crocuses are in bloom, buds appear on the trees, robins return from where ever robins spend the winter, and the streets collapse. Yes, once again it's pothole season.

A highway worker in a small, affluent community once told me that his own did not have potholes. Where he lives, "occasionally we experience pavement deficiencies," he explained. Whatever the official spin, our roads begin to crumble every year about this time. The street in front of my house, a favorite speedway in the summer as folks head toward the nearby lake, now looks like lunar landing zone-complete with craters.

For those of us who have to navigate these newly developed obstacle courses every spring, the reappearance of potholes in state highways is just another facet of life in New England. For the federal government, potholes are part of an extensive study and analysis.

While we may have lost our standing as home of the worst drivers in the nation, Massachusetts has earned the title of state with the worst roads. Government workers formed committees, task forces and investigative teams that fanned out across our great country examining everything from cart paths to freeways. Raw data was compiled into impressive charts and graphs. When the findings were released several weeks ago, local media outlets teased their audiences with come-ons: "How do Massachusetts roads stack up against the rest of the country? Find out at 11!" We listened to the words while watching pictures of cars bouncing through potholes large enough to swallow Volkswagens.

If you have ever lost a hubcap, broken a tie rod, blown a tire or taken a drive that resulted in a desperate need for a front end alignment, the government has now confirmed what you already knew. Massachusetts's roads

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All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of *The Point*, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Sneaky but sure of her man

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thought I couldn't trust him. Oh yeah, I realized, now how was he supposed to trust me after my snooping. I cared about him so much that I didn't want to end things if he wasn't doing something wrong, but how was I supposed to find out the truth without putting myself in the dog house?

Then it hit me. The plan was evil, it was wrong. But I loved it. I started up an account under a different name. Mandy was my name, flirting was my game. Mandy started talking to him on the computer, saying that she loved his pictures. They exchanged the basic small talk info, where you're from, what you do, etc. Then he asked Mandy for a picture. Uh oh, first problem, since I had made this girl up I didn't have a picture of her. A strike of brilliance had Mandy tell him that she was currently at school and all of her pictures were on her home computer.

The two's conversations started getting slightly deeper and I started plummeting into angst and anguish. I, well I mean, Mandy finally worked up the courage to ask him if he wanted to meet sometime. The boy earned brownie points for telling that little floozy he had a girlfriend. But that news didn't stop the persistent Mandy. She pursued this guy like there was no other. She tried to insist in every way that she was better than his girlfriend. My man, thank God,

would ignore those statements.

I was just getting ready to wipe out the existence of Mandy when I was bored one day in my room and decided to give it one more go. Mandy and him were chatting for a few and she asked him what he did last night. His response, "Nothing really watched T.V. with my girlfriend and ate Taco Bell. Nothing exciting."

WHAT, wait a minute. Hold on. Pause everything. "Nothing exciting." The truth is that both before and after the luxurious bubble bath we took together was extremely exciting. I know he didn't forget that.

What was I to do? What was Mandy to say? She continued to pursue him. Asking him many question, using suggestive language. Finally he burst. He told her to leave him alone because he has a wonderful girlfriend. Hey that's me. Good thing he did too. Because I was almost ready to say "So long Sucker!"

From that day, Mandy has faded out of existence and things returned to wonderful. I never again felt the need to snoop among his things, but still feel the guilt. I know I can't tell him what I did, but I can't believe that I was too wrong because it showed how he really felt and that's what kept me hanging on. If he could resist the powers and words of Mandy for me, then I am assured he could resist anything else.

Letter to the Editor

Cars under close watch at Civic Center

By Brian McCullough, Chief of Police

I just finished the article by Ben Gleason and Kristine McCaffrey and would like to update your readers about increased campus police patrols at the Civic Center.

On Feb. 6, a departmental decision was made that the Civic Center would be patrolled twenty-four hours a day. These preventive patrols specifically concentrate on vehicles parked at the Civic Center Parking Lot that belong to FSC Students.

I would also like to make a comment about the sentence "sparked controversy between city and campus police officers." I am not aware of any such controversy concerning the patrolling of the Civic Center, in fact the professional cooperation between the two police departments resulted in the arrest of the six individuals that committed the serious vandalism.

Thinking Impared

By Kelsey Doherty

www.thinkingimpaired.com



Entertaining ideas for 2002-2003

By Samantha Baker

Indianapolis was the location of this year's NACA conference. NACA, what is that? It's the National Association for Campus Activities. Each year, thousands of students from schools all around the country go to this conference. This year, Fitchburg State sent 14 of their own students along with three advisors. Students from SGA and the Programs Committee were in Indianapolis from Feb. 23rd to the 27th.

The conference wasn't a vacation for the group, the days usually went from 9 a.m. to about midnight each day with breaks for lunch and dinner. The day began with different sessions for the students to attend. The choices included, including sessions dealing with diversity, public-

ity, fundraising, leadership, and much more. These sessions provided students with the opportunity to discover ideas on how to publicize events, recognize members in their clubs, or learn more about leadership skills. It is also an opportunity to talk to people from other colleges and universities.

Each day also included several showcases with comedians, bands, lecturers, and more. By going to these showcases, the group can see what acts or lecturers may work well on their campus, and which ones aren't good at all. Next year, some of the events you go to on campus may include several individuals who performed in these showcases.

While at the conference, every-

one also has a chance to visit the marketplace. In the marketplace, everyone has an opportunity to go around to different booths and possibly find other acts or novelties they'd like to have on campus. It is also a chance to talk to different agencies to find out prices for bands or comedians, or to compare prices for different events.

This past year you may have gone to see the Evasons, or Bary Scott's Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., both acts were discovered at the NACA conference last year. So what's in store for next year? You may see Dustin Diamond (Screech from "Saved by the Bell"), or even Tony Lucca from the Mickey Mouse Club. Whatever the activity is, it is sure to be a good one.

MASSPIRG aims to educate

On Tues., Mar. 12, MassPIRG students from FSC and MWCC gathered in front of Shaw's Supermarket in Leominster to educate shoppers about genetically engineered foods and to call on the management of the New England based chain to stop using genetically engineered ingredients in their store brand products.

"Shaw's ads claim the 'Choice is Yours'," explained Andrea Cimino, MASSPIRG Campus Organizer at Fitchburg State College. "And we are calling for Shaw's to let us choose non-genetically engineered foods, just like our British counterparts did three years ago." MASSPIRG, along with Clean Water Action and a coalition of 100

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after this, the corporate ladder
will be a piece of
[cake].

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Poetic chemist, Roald Hoffmann, to speak in Kent Recital Hall

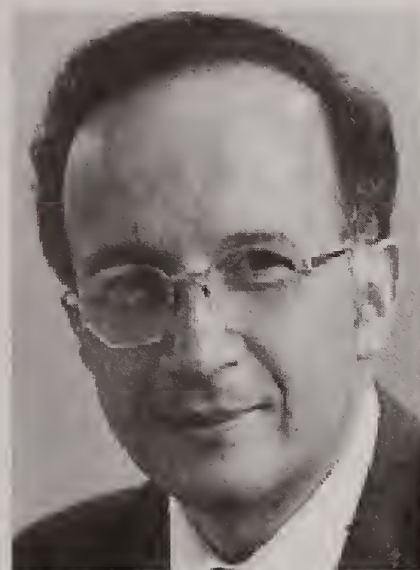
Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann, known for using poetry as well as theory in the laboratory, will present a free public lecture on "Chemistry in Culture, Culture in Chemistry" at FSC as part of the college's Laureate Lecture Series. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall of the Conlon Building.

Dr. Hoffmann and Kenichi Fukui were awarded the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work in predicting the pathways chemical reactions follow. Hoffmann, a chemistry professor at Cornell University, is also an essayist and poet. His scientific knowledge and musings are influenced by his artistic writings and his religious thoughts.

"Chemistry in Culture, Culture in Chemistry" will place chemistry in the world culture, as "an activity of

curious but fallible human beings, trying to understand the beautiful and terrible world, in a way that is complementary to the way that others-especially artists-try to understand it."

Hoffmann has published three poetry collections: "The Metamict State" (1987), "Gaps and Verges" (1990), and "Memory Effects" (1999). His other books include *Chemistry Imagined*, a unique art-science-literature collaboration with artist Vivian Torrence, *The Same and Not the Same*, an account of the dualities that lie under the surface of chemistry, and *Old Wine, New Flasks; Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition*, co-authored with Shira Leibowitz Schmidt. Hoffmann also teaches a television course, "The World of Chemistry," now aired on many PBS stations and abroad.



Roald Hoffmann will be speaking at FSC Thursday, April 4

The block scheduling debate

Continued from page 1

to learn better with shorter periods, while the majority of the faculty on campus believe a 50-minute period is not nearly enough time, especially after roll is called and homework questions have been answered.

Even Dr. Angela Nastasee-Carder, a speech professor at FSC, believes that the 75-minute period is a better block for teaching. Nastasee-Carder is known for telling her students that "a person can only pay attention for 40 minutes, after 40 minutes the mind wanders. And a person only retains 40% of what is said to them." Despite this, Nastasee-Carder is still in favor of the 75-minute periods because "it leaves a good amount of time that is beneficial for student presentations and group discussions."

Jeffko agrees by adding that "teachers often build up a momentum and find it difficult to cut their lecture short after 50 minutes." Although the current block scheduling system has been well received, the system does propose problems for nursing majors who are often off campus during the Tuesday/Thursday block which meets from 3:30-5:00. It also causes problems for commuters who often want to start heading home at this time. This problem can be remedied by maybe moving one of the blocks to a Wednesday. This issue is still to be decided by the Academic Policy Committee.

Jeffko says that it is his guess that the block scheduling system will remain the same, with perhaps a few minor changes that will help nursing majors and commuters. Jeffko reassured that there are still "plenty of slots of three 50-minute periods available when scheduling classes" for those who find them to be more beneficial.

MASSPIRG teaches Shaw's customers

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organizations, doctors, and scientists, has been working to convince Shaw's to stop using genetically engineered ingredients for the last year and a half.

The event was part of national week-long kick-off of a new campaign calling for supermarkets to stop using genetically engineered ingredients. In New England, events occurred Tuesday in Leominster, Boston, Providence, Vermont, and Maine. Demonstrations were held across the country throughout the week.

Genetically engineered foods have not undergone thorough scientific investigation for safety. Initial independent studies indicate that these foods may have some serious health and environmental impacts, from triggering allergies to damaging our immune systems, to harming

wildlife.

"Genetically engineered foods can potentially be toxic or cause allergic reactions, so why aren't they rigorously tested before they go to market?" questioned Dr. Martha Herbert, a pediatric neurologist at Massachusetts General Hospital who works with children with autism.

Dr. Herbert added, "Biotech companies get to save money on testing by turning consumers, including our children and the sick and vulnerable, into guinea pigs."

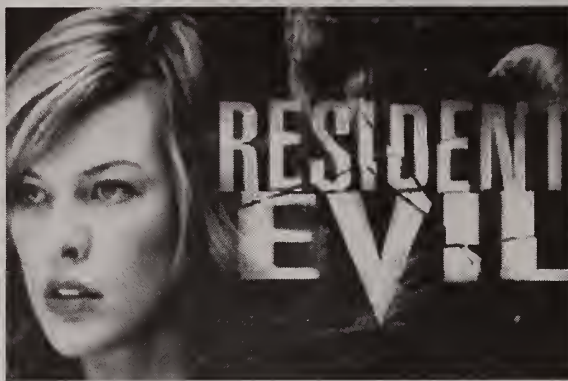
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not require any safety testing for genetically engineered foods. If safety studies are conducted, the biotechnology companies seeking approval conduct all tests themselves and the results are not peer reviewed or available for public scrutiny

A mediocre 'evil'

By Kyle Wall

Yet again another movie has come to a local cinema near you that does a great job of ruining a video game franchise you have grown to love. "Resident Evil," the best zombie infested game, is the basis for the movie that Paul W. S. Anderson and the fine people at Columbia Pictures are presenting for you to "enjoy." Don't take my dislike of this movie as film elitism. I happen to like watching the occasional B movie, but this is not one of those times. Had Columbia gone ahead with utilizing the one director that can give us the 'Undead' in a favorable light, George A. Romero (director of the classic "Night of The Living Dead"), and then maybe this failed experiment would have come to a better conclusion.

Instead we get a film that is so loosely based on the game that it may as well be the made-for-TV movie "based on true events" garbage ABC subjected us to in the afternoons following long junior high classes. Oh, it HAPPENS in Raccoon City (the place where all this zombie mayhem goes down in the game series), and there IS a mansion (where the first game takes place),



Ruining the good name of video games?

and of course, there ARE zombies, but the "plot" is as weak as sugar-less Kool-Aid. If you're not even going to try, why bother?

Why is it every time a movie can't seem to find a logical way for the characters to come across information themselves, they throw in the old "hey, I have amnesia, I don't know what happened! ...*pause* ...*cue flashback*..." Wait! This is what happen!" The flashbacks *tried* to show some creativity, but were nothing but cheap imitations of David Fincher's style of "Se7en."

There were some moments I did enjoy in this movie, despite what you might think. Milla

Jovovich, an actress I have had my eye on since "The Fifth Element" and have suffered through "The Messenger" just to see, is one of them. While she will never walk away with the Oscar, she is pleasing to the eyes, and brightened up this "dark, horrific" movie. Also, the defense system the cast encounters in "The Hive" a.k.a., where the \$^@! hits the fan, did have a few surprises. I won't ruin that for you, should you choose to see this film. I have to say I'm impressed they didn't give away all the money shots in the trailer just to lure you in.

Walking away from this picture left me with the desire to spend numerous hours behind the control of the trusty old Playstation that never told me I was "such a nice friend," or broke down on the highway like my POS car, or even required that I earn a piece of paper that said I spent every day of my life in a building where lies and hypocrisy was taught to me as "fact." Sitting in the dark, hoping to get around the next corner with enough ammo to last me to the checkpoint, dodging zombies and killer dogs, and searching for items that will lead me to the end of the game is more exiting for me.

Zorba! set to capture students with song

The FSC theater program will present its first-ever musical. "Zorba!" will be performed April 10-13 at 8 p.m. (with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 13) in McKay Auditorium.

The musical, based on Nikos Kazantzakis's classic book *Zorba the Greek* and the movie of the same name, is adapted by Jule Stein, with music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb, the team that wrote "Cabaret." Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for students and seniors).

The production is produced and directed by Theater/English Professor Richard McElvain, who earned high praise for his recent performance in the title role of Tartuffe at The New Rep in Boston. Musical direction is by Humanities Professor James Leve, a Fulbright Scholar who has worked with Kander and Ebb. Cap Corduan,

head of the Industrial Technology Department's Technical Theater program, will be the technical designer for the show. Costume design is by Amanda Majuca and Eric Covell. The choreographer is Cassandra Tzimas, a senior at the college and an expert in Greek dancing.

"This is our most ambitious production to date," said McElvain. "It's fully costumed and designed, with a cast of 21 that will dance and sing in huge production numbers celebrating the events of the story. The set design is extraordinary, transporting the audience to different locations on the island through the use of revolving set pieces. And Dr. Leve will lead a live orchestra to accompany the production."

"Zorba!" tells the story of a shy Greek American who finds himself traveling to Crete to

explore a mine he inherited on the island. On his exotic journey he finds himself befriended by a Greek workman, Alexi Zorba. Zorba embodies a vital life force that sets him apart from all his peers. He slowly teaches the shy, bookish Niko the ways of the world, helping him come to grips with love, passion, murder, grief, and, finally, transcendence.

Niko falls in love with a beautiful young widow who is hated by the local population. Their love affair provokes an uproar in the town, ending in the murder of his lover. Zorba later begins an affair with Hortense, an aging French courtesan who runs a hotel. It is through this courtesan dying of consumption that Niko learns of love and death.

Dave Brubeck quartet amazes audience

By Andy Levine

Music is the true common dominator of the world. It is something loved by all walks of life. All you need to appreciate this glorious art form is a set of working ears. On March 7, all in attendance of the performance by the Jazz quartet led headed by the masterful legend Dave Brubeck had their ears listen to a truly impressive display of the most pleasant example of breaking the barrier of silence.

The jazz foursome played to a crowd in the Weston auditorium that was packed tight to the aisles and buzzing with praise for the musical players.

The event was the brainchild of Tulio Neiman, who came up with the idea last summer. Tulio then pitched the proposal to FSC president Michael Riccards. Thinking the idea was a very good one, Tulio then contacted the right people and the whole thing fell into place.

The president's office paid for half of the performance, while the remaining payment was provided by the programs committee

"I think he's got a future," comments Riccards about Brubeck. Not only did the president enjoy the show, his daughter who is a music major at Umass brought a group of students to view the performance also.

Umass Jazz voice student Krissy Skare said that she was "very impressed indeed." Her favorite pieces that the quartet performed included 'Koto Song' and 'Blues for Randy.'

Among other songs played by the group were 'Por Que, No,' 'The Crossing,' and the much loved and incredibly famous 'Take Five.'

Hudson native Gregg Hamm got a chance to relive his younger days by attending the show.

"When I was in high school, i was



Jazz legend Dave Brubeck posing after great night of music

hooked on the Take Five album. It is as almost as if you have to listen to the entire e album. It is that good," comments Hamm.

The 'Take Five' album is just one of the 150 albums of music Brubeck has been the figurehead on. He stated between a song that when he was signed with Columbia Records he recorded *three albums a year for seventeen years.*

"It takes a rock group three weeks to get a bounce, we're done in three hours," claims the healthy looking eighty year-old plus Brubeck.

The even was sold out virtually before tickets even went on sale due the buzz around campus and by word of mouth.

The show was the first performance for the quartet in a few months time. Several times while talking to the audience between songs, Brubeck joked about how well the quartet knows each other and how much they play together.

"When we're not together, we're apart."

Calendar of events and activities

Music

Battle of the Bands - March 28, 8 p.m.; finals held on March 29, 8 p.m.; Pub.

Film

Classic Film Series - March 28, 7 p.m., "Arsenic and Old Lace"; Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Leadership Film Series - March 28, 3 p.m., "The Verdict"; Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Special events

Antiques Road Show - March 30, noon-4 p.m., Underground (Alumni).

Dance Party V - April 4, 9 p.m.-midnight; Pub.

Easter Egg Hunt and Movie - March 30, 12:30 p.m.; Quad and Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Career Services at FSC presents, "Launch Your Career" Career Day and Job Fair for Undergrad and Graduate Students. April 2 from

1:30p.m.-5:30p.m. For more information, call ext. 3151.

Red Sox vs. K.C. Royals on April 11. Lower Bleachers and bus ride to the game only \$15 dollars. Tickets available at the Info. Desk 11:30a.m.-7p.m. each day Monday -Friday.

Class of 2004 Semi Formal "Dance Into the Moonlight" April 25th from 7p.m.-midnight; Leominster Elks Club. Dinner, Dancing and Transportation all for \$30 or \$50 dollars for couple. For more details, call the SGA office at 3300.

Visual Arts

Photographic Exhibit - Through April 12, works by Keith Johnson; Hammond Art Gallery.

**

Listings including date, time, location, admission fee, sponsor and contact telephone number may be sent by email to point@fsc.edu, or by campus mail to The Point, Hammond Building.

Battle of the Bands

Thirteen Bands will be facing off in the Underground Pub March 27,28 and 29.

The shows run from 8 p.m. to Midnight, and feature Silent Reflect, Tag Team Trampoline, Static Mind, Zodiak, Left Out, Distant Relatives, Four Piping Englishmen, The Ska Band, Weasel Head, Suture, Hansel, Flip Fifty Five and the Danny Tanners.

Haven't heard of them? These bands are new, raw and energy-filled and look to put on a great show. It is free to get in, sponsored by WXPL. Who said there is nothing good to do on-campus?

'Wolf' could tear cinematography competition to pieces

By Roger Roy

In 1765 something was stalking the mountains of south-western France. A 'beast' that pounced on humans and animals with terrible ferocity. The beast became so notorious that the King of France dispatched envoys to find out what was happening and to kill the creature.

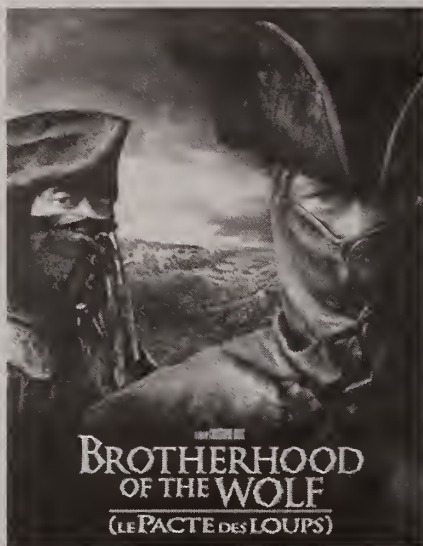
"Le Pacte des Loups" a.k.a. "Brotherhood Of The Wolf," is a period costume horror martial-arts werewolf movie and surprisingly all those pieces work together provided you don't concentrate too hard. Except of course, when you have to read the subtitles.

We are introduced to the two heroes, Gregoire de Fronsac (Samuel le Bihan) and Mani (Mark Dacascos) in the midst of a pouring storm that happens in the first of many brilliantly staged fights. De Fronsac has been dispatched by the King of France to find the Beast. De Fronsac represents the "new rational world of the Enlightenment" which is being forced to confront the backward, superstitious France outside of the capital. Mani, an Iroquois shaman and hunter, starts off the fighting with an amazing, simply amazing fight against five people.

This is good old-fashioned horror movie territory and the source of much of the plot. Guvaudan, the main village, is the sort of village that would give the inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow a run for their money.

De Fronsac is wise when needed, with a sensational put down for those who think that Mani is less than human. Mani is a man of few words but utterly dominates the screen when present. Needless to say, they are both fantastic fighters, but Mani more.

Horror movies live or die by the creature and fortunately this movie delivers. Wisely there is never a chance to get a good look at the animal - it is enough to know



In theatres now!

that it is big and nasty, the viewer's mind will fill in the details. The creature is also used in moderation. When the viewer might expect it to pounce it doesn't, a few minutes later it appears out of nowhere.

While the design of the animal from the Creature Workshop is perfect, some of the CGI work is a little below the standards we have come to expect - a couple of the daylight shots are well-below par, but the nighttime work is outstanding. Indeed one shot where the creature stalks out of the fog behind the hero has to be amongst the most effective CGI work in film.

Cinematically this is some of the best work of late. It does bear a resemblance to Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" with it's slow character-forming scenes mixed in with frantic camera work for the action scenes (see "Hannibal and "Black Hawk Down" for other noticeable resemblances). Just about every camera and digital trick is used at least once, some to excellent effect. There was not one that didn't seem out of place.

At 140 minutes perhaps the movie runs a little too long and there are one too many plot twists, but it doesn't outstay its welcome.

"Brotherhood Of The Wolf" is a breath of new air. It is a cinematic achievement that deserves attention and enjoyment.

'Blade II' as sharp as the first

By Roger Roy

"Blade II", the sequel to the 1998 action thriller of the same name, met every single one of my expectations. This meant more weapons, more action, more vampires, and the best part of about this movie of course, Blade himself.



Blade II meets expectations.

"Blade II"

takes place two years after the first one. Blade (Wesley Snipes) is continuing his search for his long-dead friend Whistler (Kris Kristofferson), who has since become a vampire. Soon after, Blade is later informed of a truce that is being called between him and the Vampire Nation. The entire reason for the truce is that a rare mutation has occurred within the vampire strain. A new breed of vampire called a "Reapers" has resulted from the mutant strain. The Vampire Nation needs Blade's help in eliminating the reapers before they wipe out everything on Earth. To do this, the Vampire Nation allies Blade with the Bloodpack, a team of specially trained vampires who were originally training to kill him. The Bloodpack is headed by the vampire leader's own daughter, Nyssa (Leonor Varela). So together Blade, Whistler, and the Bloodpack set off to eliminate the reaper threat.

Make no mistake, this movie rules. It is equal to "Blade" in almost every way. The reapers are very cool looking. "Blade II" is actually scary too and is less dark in tone than the first film. "Blade II" also has a bit of humor. Wesley Snipes does a fantastic job in this movie. I had previously never heard of Luke Goss (the lead Reaper) until

I saw this movie. He is excellent as the evil and twisted Nomak. But I would not go as far as to say but he's even better than Stephen Dorff's Deacon Frost in the first film.

Now that it's been established that the core of the movie is composed of fight scenes, the question becomes are the fight scenes enjoyable? Exciting, thrilling, and absurdly unrealistic (director Guillermo del Toro replaced the live actors with computer-generated body doubles so they could do what no real actor could - its just a shame that the transition from live actor to CG body is so obvious), the one-on-one fight scenes are a sight to behold (particularly when Blade uses wrestling moves, after running up walls and jumping what looks like 20 feet in the air), but, like in any other film, anti-climactic sequences where Blade takes on large groups of Reapers single-handedly without batting an eyelash get old very fast. Seeing vampire after vampire vanish into CG smoldering ash and bones is impressive the first time, but after seeing it time and time again, one will leave the theatre in a sort of trance, the only thoughts on their mind being, "Too many computer graphics..."

But "Blade II" is differently a must-see. If you're a fan of the first one, you will know the three-year wait was worth it. If your not a fan, well just see this and then you will.

Study displays educational failures

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.—(COLLEGIATE PRESS-WIRE)—A billion-dollar industry with no customer service. That loses up to 12% of its customer base annually because of poor service but does little about it. That puts employees' desires before customers' needs. That believes its customers want to be cheated. "That's the condition of most of American higher education," said Neal Raisman, Ph.D., author of *Embrace the Oxymoron: Customer Service in Higher Education*.

Colleges and universities have been existing with no real concern to the care of their customers - students - for years, according to Dr. Raisman. "Many claim they do care," he said. "After all, they have student services offices and even create short-lived student programs. But the reality is, many college employees still believe the adage, 'This would be a great place to work if the students weren't here.'"

And their indifference has caught up with them.

"Students and their parents are paying increasing tuition payments and getting less on their investments," Dr. Raisman said. "And in a service industry like college, that translates into the education itself." Long-term, poor service affects our society, culture, economy and future by graduating poorly educated citizens and workers, according to Dr. Raisman.

In the first book published on the issue of customer service in higher

education, the former college president investigates how colleges and universities treat and mistreat students - and what can be done about it. In the 191-page book, he discusses:

— How poor customer service cheats students and can hand them an inferior education.

— What do students really want and expect from college. And why they chose one college over another (And it's not what most academics think.)

— Why being ranked zero is the best rating for a college, and how some colleges have gotten there.

— Why students do not count as much as administrators, faculty and researchers at some colleges.

— How administrators have allowed students to become undervalued and even overlooked.

— How a lack of customer service affects the bottom line - in lost enrollments, transfers and low return on investment and future donations.

— What good colleges do to make students feel valued.

— The 12 principles of "Good Customer Service" in education.

— The "Field of Dreams" syndrome in college marketing: "If we build it and offer some classes, they will enroll."

— What a customer service audit is and how it can help a college understand what it can do to improve the experience and education for students.

From potholes to Pop Tarts



Assorted bagels, one of today's most popular breakfast foods.

Continued from page 2
stink.

All this started me wondering what other studies in the obvious the government was conducting. It didn't take long for me to find out there recently was a federal survey conducted on a subject that most of us can relate to: breakfast. According to this survey, 85 percent of Americans still take time to eat breakfast. However, this is not the breakfast your parents and grandparents ate. This is the breakfast of the new millennium-and for most of us, it's eaten in our car.

Ken Kimmel, vice president of concepts for Dunkin' Donuts says 60 percent of his company's business is conducted between 6 and 11 a.m. The company now offers bagel sandwiches and a variety of teas in addition to its trademark doughnuts and coffee to attract a wider audience. Since introducing bagels in 1996, Dunkin' Donuts has become the largest retailer of bagels in the U.S., selling more than 4 million every week. The doughnut hasn't lost its popularity, however. According to company reports, Dunkin' Donuts sells almost 6.4

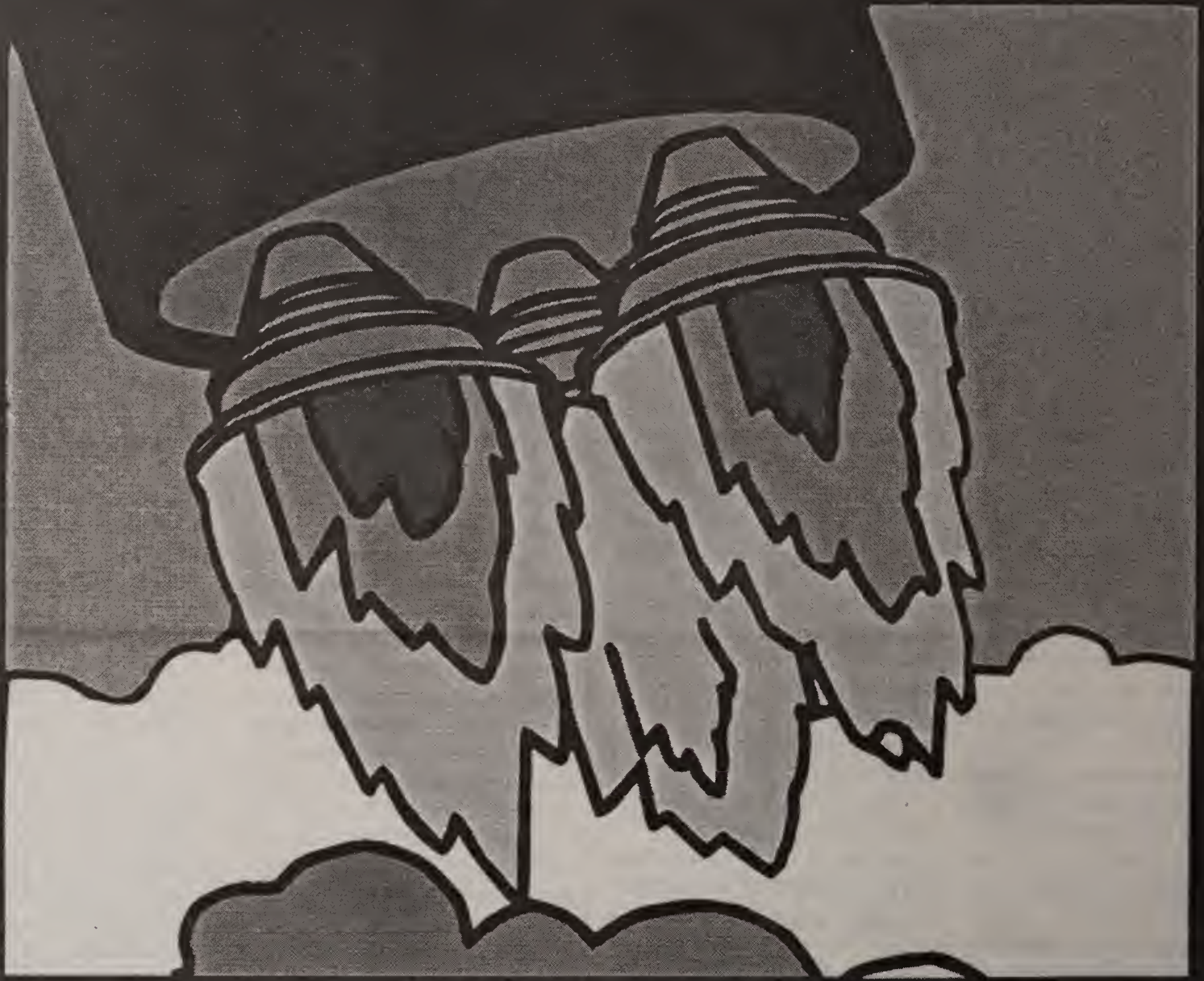
million doughnuts every day. That translates, in one year, to enough doughnuts to circle the earth-twice.

MacDonald's, Burger King and other fast food franchises now offer breakfast selections and supermarket shelves bulge with on-the-go breakfast options from Pop-Tarts to granola bars. Robert Thompson, professor of media and popular culture at Syracuse University says breakfast has become the most portable meal of the day. Thompson cites the influx of women into the workforce as once of the factors that sounded the death knell for the traditional breakfast of years gone by. Now, he says, the shapes of food, such as hash brown potatoes have been modified by fast food purveyors "so they can be eaten at 65 miles per hour."

So as you chow down on your glazed doughnut or your 700-calorie steak, egg and cheese bagel, take comfort in the knowledge that you share your love of breakfast with 85 percent of your fellow Americans. And keep the cover on that coffee cup. You never know when you might encounter a pothole. The government says they're out there.

SGA Elections
April 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
Make your vote count!

Launch Your Career



Fitchburg State College
**CAREER AND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
FAIR**

**April 2, 2002 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Hammond Building - M & M Lounge**

Nomar is Ready to roll after injury

Nomar Garciaparra has heard enough questions about his right wrist.

The three-time American League All-Star, who said Sunday he will be ready for Opening Day, has proven he's healthy to the person who matters the most -- himself.

"Things are going well," said Garciaparra. "I'm just glad to be out there. I'm more focused on the baseball aspect of the game rather than worrying about my health and whether I'm going to be ready, health-wise. I'm in a good frame of mind."

The first big step was playing in back-to-back games, which he did

on March 16 and 17. The next was playing in three consecutive games (March 21, 22 and 23). Again, there were no problems. Then Sunday, for the first time since his last regular season game last Aug. 26, he played a full nine innings.

"It's fine and it's strong," said Garciaparra, who was 1-for-5 and scored a run against the Expos. "I feel I'm ready for [Opening Day]. Baseball's a tough game as it is. When your mind is elsewhere, it makes it that much more difficult. I haven't had that problem this spring."

Fans and observers may put a lot of stock into Garciaparra's impressive Spring Training numbers. But despite coming into Sunday's game with a .412 average and two homers in 12 games, the shortstop says the most important aspect of the spring can't

be found in the stat sheet.

"With me, I don't really worry too much about stats in Spring Training," he said. "It's more about getting in baseball shape and in that regard, I feel ready. Everything has gone just as I hoped."

Something else has also become clear to Garciaparra this spring -- the importance of team chemistry. He says the much publicized changes in the Red Sox front office and in the clubhouse have had a positive impact.

"Things are looking good right now," Garciaparra said. "That's what Spring Training is all about, to see what everybody's role is and see where everyone fits in. We've had a lot of things going on, from the management to the change of ownership, changes from the top down."

That said, the guys have always been great in Spring Training. The season kind of dictates how things play out, but I see things playing out very well with us. Everybody gets along, everybody is on the same page and everybody is working hard. It's just a matter of understanding your role. When you understand your role, it makes things easier."



Falcons Looking Ahead

Sat March 30

Baseball At Mass Maritime
Noon DH

Softball at Mass Maritime
Noon DH

Tue Apr 2

Softball at UMASS-Dart
3:30

Wen Apr 3

Red Sox - Toronto 6:05

Thur Apr 4

Softball at Pine Manor 3:30

Fri April 5

Red Sox at Baltimore 7:05

Sat April 6

Baseball At Fram. State
Noon DH

Softball at Fram. State
Noon DH

Red Sox at Baltimore 1:35

Sun Apr 7

Red Sox at Baltimore 1:35

Health fair and fitness tests coming to FSC April 1

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

There is a series of commercials on TV these days that promote a prescription drug to lower cholesterol. An actress is seen in one commercial walking down the red carpet. A graphic on the screen tells the viewer she is 5'9" tall, weighs 125 pounds, wears a size 6. The actress smiles at her adoring public. As she makes her way down the carpet, her cholesterol level is shown on screen--245. The actress falls on her face.

So, what's YOUR number? While the people depicted in this series of advertisements are middle-aged, federal guidelines state "All adults 20 years of age or older should have their blood cholesterol level checked at least every five years."

FSC Health Services, in conjunction with the faculty and staff from the Recreation Center, the Exercise and Sports Science Department and the Counseling Center will be conducting a Health Fair April 1, 2 and 3. During this event, use of the Recreation Center is free to all staff. Jeff Godin of the Exercise and Sports Science Department will conduct comprehensive fitness assessments lasting 45 minutes each day of the fair from 11 to 5. Assessments will be done by appointment. Contact Health Services or the Recreation Department to schedule your appointment.

No appointments are needed for the other fair events. Each day during the fair screenings will be offered from 12 to 2 to check blood pressure and cholesterol. From 2 to 5 each day, the Health

Services staff will conduct cancer information sessions dealing with the issues of breast, testicular and skin cancers.

Athletic Trainer Todd Souliere will present daily information sessions on injury prevention and rehabilitation. Each day will concentrate on a specific injury: the ankle, the shoulder and the knee.

Presentations will also be made during the fair about weight loss, nutritional supplements, meditation and relaxation. Counseling Services will be on hand Monday, April 1 for National Alcohol Screening Day. The Recreation Center staff will conduct an aerobics class Wednesday at 5:30. Monday evening from 8 to 11 there will be a March Madness 3:3 basketball tournament.

Athletic supporters are scarce

By Matt Germain

The key ingredient to any athlete's success is their support. No, I don't mean that piece of plastic that protects certain unmentionables, but those who give them a reason to achieve. Recently, many state colleges and universities have axed many of their sports programs in order to deal with the budget cuts that are running rampant across many states. All students need support to succeed and who more than student athletes.

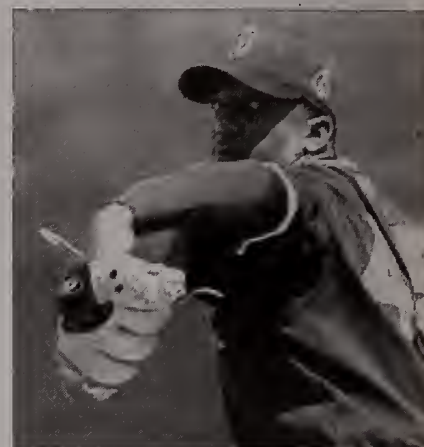
Athletes are probably the most recognizable representatives of a school. The performances and behaviors of athletes are witnessed by countless other schools in their respective conferences and regions.

The grades they earn are sent to the athletic office as well as their coaches and the time frame in which they have to finish schoolwork is greatly reduced. On top of this pressure they still have games to play and contests that they try to give 100% of their effort as fans from each side watch them. Even in terms of increasing enrollment they are pressured. Many student-athletes take active roles in recruiting incoming athletes as well as creating a team atmosphere that makes students want to be members of their team.

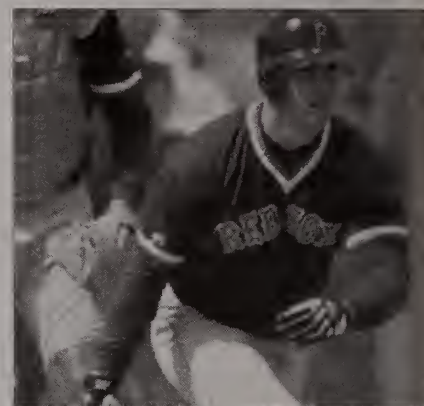
When athletic teams are having good seasons it produces an energy that is infectious throughout campuses. Watching your school win a big game creates an excitement that no stand-up comedian or lecture in

Ellis White could ever imagine to rival. Most of all, athletic successes instill pride in one's school that is the building block to establishing credibility.

It is support of athletic programs that develops success. As of right now Massachusetts ranks 50th among the 50 states for per capita support of higher education and they are attempting to cut more. Those that hold the keys to the woodshed that houses the axes should think about the intangible benefits that they cannot expect to duplicate if they allow these vital programs be forgotten. Higher education may be a "work in progress" but no work has ever been completed when the pride that one takes in it has been stripped away.



Ready To Go



March Maddness full of upsets; Indiana over Duke

By Dan Cortez Indiana Daily Student

Indiana coach Mike Davis could deal with the media people who said it was impossible. He could deal with the same fans who doubted him this week because they have been doubting him for the past 18 months.

"We had a meeting (Wednesday) with coaches and administrators to talk about the tournament. One of the guys from Duke asked what time do they play on Saturday," Davis said. "I looked around. Maybe he didn't know I was sitting in the room.

"So I told my guys this, 'You know guys, they're a great basketball team. But when someone disrespected us like this, we have to come out and fight.'"

It didn't look like they would at first, but the Hoosiers did. They fought really hard.

A furious second half rally from a 13-point halftime deficit culminated with the Hoosiers doing the unthinkable. Fifth-seeded IU knocked off defending national champions and No. 1 Duke, 74-73, in the South Regional semifinals in Lexington before 22,348 at Rupp Arena.

The win gets the Hoosiers into the Elite Eight for the first time since 1993, when they lost to Kansas. IU will face 10th-seeded Kent State in the South Regional final Saturday night. It was

the Golden Flashes that knocked off the Hoosiers in the first round of the tournament last year.

Sophomore Jared Jeffries had a game-high 24 points and 15 rebounds. Junior Jarrad Odle had 15 and sophomore A.J. Moyer had 14 points. Duke's Carlos Boozer had 19, Mike Dunleavy had 17 and Jason Williams had 15 points for the Blue Devils.

For the first time in their three tournament games, the Hoosiers (23-11) found themselves trailing -- big time. But IU fought back and grabbed its first lead with 59 seconds left on a four-footer by junior Tom Coverdale, giving the Hoosiers a 72-70 edge. It was Coverdale's first bucket of the game.

"I didn't know what offense to call," Davis said. "He bailed us out. He's been our guy all year."

Daniel Ewing came down the court for Duke and missed a three-pointer from the wing and junior Jeff Newton corralled the rebound for IU. Coverdale brought the ball to the mid-court stripe and called a timeout. The Hoosiers couldn't get the ball in and had to use their last timeout to avoid a five-second call.

On the ensuing play, Chris Duhon fouled Moyer with 11.1 seconds left, sending him to the line for two.

"If I get to shoot free throws, my teammates

expect me to make both of them," Moyer said. "I've been in this situation before, and believe it or not I missed them. That was a big motivation."

Moyer calmly hit both to give IU a 74-70 lead. Duke (31-4) did not use a timeout, instead opting to push the ball up the floor. Ewing came down and missed a three-pointer from in front of the Duke bench.

IU overcame 16 first half turnovers, miscues that Duke cashed into 23 points. The Hoosiers had to deal with the Blue Devils' depth, which seemed endless as they committed a season-high 26 fouls. And IU was able to gain control of the game after almost being run out of the building in the first half.

"I knew our guys would be nervous," Davis said of the Hoosiers' sluggish start that had them down 29-12 11 minutes into the game. "We made adjustments. We just wanted to come out and keep going."

Davis stayed confident throughout the game and said he sensed things were turning for the Hoosiers when they were down by 12 in the middle of the second half.

"You have to say it. If you say it enough, you start to believe it," Davis said.

The Hoosiers believed. Now Duke does, too.